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A Bleak Time

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FOR CARL

by
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He opened doors
on drunken nights,
most nights,
with his woolly head,
like a ram.

Now he's dead—
his skull smashed flat
against a tree—
bucked off a snowmobile.
One more wooden door
opened to eternity.

A BLEAK TIME

by
Jim Kastner
English Grad.

I am
a landscape artist
with my palette
of indigo,
emerald, plum,
gold and magenta—
painting at the pole
in six-month darkness—
staring at white canvas.